

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, and 20 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 2-7, 9, 11-19 and 21-25 have been canceled without prejudice of disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 merely to include the elements set forth in claim 25. As such, Applicants respectfully request proper entry and consideration of this amendment after final rejection. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 20 correct its dependency on currently pending claims. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* (USP 5,953,481) in view of *Steinberg et al.* (USP 5,862,217); rejected claims 2, 9, 11, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Steinberg et al.* and further in view of *Matsumoto et al.* (USP 5,796,428); rejected claims 3, 4, 7, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Steinberg et al.* and further in view of *Freeman et al.* (USP 5,579,239); rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Steinberg et al.* and *Matsumoto* and further in view of *Freeman*; and rejected the remainder of the claims using a combination of references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – *Watanabe et al./Steinberg et al.*

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 25, the Examiner asserts as follows:

Regarding claim 25, *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Steinberg et al.* discloses all of the limitations previously discussed with respect to claim 1, as well as ...enciphering device that enciphers, according to the identification information, at least one of the image data and the operation information (col. 8, lines 8-12 – the remote-control signals which are respectively associated for use with the VTRs as registered).

Watanabe et al., at col. 8, lines 8-12, discloses as follows:

For the editing function, the remote-control code storing part 4 is arranged to register beforehand VTRs usable for editing and to hold code strings forming remote-control signals which are respectively associated for use with the VTRs as registered.

Applicants respectfully submit that the remote control signals of *Watanabe et al.*, which are respectively associated for use with the registered VTRs are insufficient to teach or suggest the enciphering device, as claimed.

In Applicants' specification, on page 8, lines 17-22, Applicants recite as follows:

The digital camera 10 has a wireless communication part 84 by which image data and the respective signals can be exchanged. An EEPROM 86 stores identification data (ID data) for specifying a communication correspondence and external equipment with which the CPU 50 determines equipment to be communicated with. The CPU 50 also encodes data to be transmitted by using the identification data of the communication correspondence and transmits the data from the wireless communication part 84.

In addition, on page 9, lines 13-15 of the specification, Applicants discloses as follows:

The correspondence to be connected with is selected based on the identification data (ID data) which has been registered beforehand, and the contents of the transmitted data is encoded based on the identification data, whereby security is protected.

As can be seen from the above disclosures, Applicants define the claim term as converting into a signal form that is not easily decipherable, from a security perspective. As such, the Examiner's reliance on the remote control signals for use with VTRs is insufficient to teach or suggest enciphering device that enciphers, according to the identification information, at least one of the image data and the operation information.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that *Steinberg et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Watanabe et al.* As neither of the cited references, either alone or in combination teach or suggest enciphering device that enciphers, according to the identification information, at least one of the image data and the operation information, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness by failing to provide references that teach or suggest all of the claim elements. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended with the elements of claim 25, and its dependent claims are allowable over the references as cited.

Conclusion

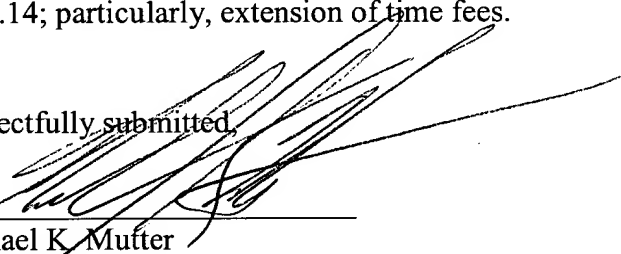
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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